

CLAIMS**I Claim:**

1. A hitch assembly consisting essentially of:

- (a) a coupling tongue with a first end and a second end, further comprising a first aperture sized to engage a coupling pin at the first end, and second aperture sized to engage a hitch pin at the second end;
- (b) a U-shaped clevis with a first end and a second end, that is substantially flat in cross section and that consists of an aperture at the first end and the second end, said U-shaped clevis being pivotally coupled to the second end of the coupling tongue with the hitch pin, and
- (c) an opening formed by the coupling tongue and the clevis, sized to receive a towing member.

2. The hitch assembly of claim 1, wherein the hitch pin is comprised of 4140 hot-rolled steel.

15 3. The hitch assembly of claim 1 or 2 further comprising a wear plate at either end of the clevis.

4. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising a sling adapter disposed in the clevis.

5. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising a support material lining 20 the apertures of the clevis.

6. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 further comprising a support material lining the first aperture, the second aperture or both.

7. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 comprised partially of aluminum alloy.

8. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein the coupling tongue is comprised of aluminum alloy.
9. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein the clevis is comprised of aluminum alloy.
- 5 10. The hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein the coupling tongue and the clevis are comprised of aluminum alloy.
11. The use of the hitch assembly of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 in combination with a towing belt, to tow a vehicle.
12. A method of towing a vehicle in need of being towed, said method comprising:
 - 10 (a) providing a hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10;
 - (b) mounting the hitch assembly into a receiver of one of: the vehicle or a tow vehicle;
 - (c) inserting a towing member through the opening of the hitch assembly;
 - (d) attaching the towing member to the other of: the vehicle or the tow vehicle,
15 and
 - (e) applying sufficient force to the towing member with the tow vehicle to tow the vehicle in need of being towed.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the towing member is a towing belt.